

# The Heartbeat

## United Church of Christ Homes

*A place to be yourself and celebrate your life*

### Special Interest Articles:

- UCC Homes Welcomes New President/CEO
- 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Corp. Meeting Notice
- 29th Annual Helping Hands Event Offers Two Options

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## UCC Homes Welcomes Meredith Schell Fields as New President/CEO

The Board of Directors of United Church of Christ Homes (UCC Homes) is pleased to announce it has selected Meredith Schell Fields as the new President/Chief Executive Officer as of February 10, 2025. Meredith has a long tenure with UCC Homes.

Since March 2014, she served as Executive Director of The Lebanon Valley Home and prior to then she spent four years as the Corporate Compliance Administrator at the corporate office of UCC Homes.

Meredith is a licensed nursing home administrator and personal care home administrator and is nationally certified as a healthcare compliance professional. She has six years' experience directly interpreting state and federal regulations and investigating compliance of long-term care facilities for participation in both the Pennsylvania state licensure program and Federal Medicare/Medicaid Recertification Program. Her 28 years' experience working directly in long-term care, including key compliance positions, make her uniquely qualified to serve as the President/Chief Executive Officer for UCC Homes.

Her enthusiasm and passion for this position were clearly demonstrated to the Board of Directors, "I respect UCC Homes' mission-driven environment that encourages building and maintaining strong, healthy teams and providing a quality experience for residents, families, and staff through a foundation of love, compassion, integrity and faith."

She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Special Programs Licensure for Nursing Home Administrators from York College. She lives in Lebanon PA with her husband Dan and two children.

Please join us in welcoming Meredith in her new role with UCC Homes. Her faithful service to our ministry is outstanding and she is devoted, in the spirit of Christ's love, to continue to provide care and service to elders through acts of love and compassion.

To donate to UCC Homes, please visit our website at [www.ucc-homes.org](http://www.ucc-homes.org) and click on the "Click Here to Make a Donation!" button on the home page.

# ATTENTION PASTORS AND LAY DELEGATES

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Corporation Meeting of United Church of Christ Homes will be on  
Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM

*Refreshments and Registration begin at 9:30 AM*

The Willow Community Room at Giant Food Store (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
3301 E. Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Please plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

## UCC Homes 29th Anniversary Helping Hands Event Offers Two Options

Celebrate with UCC Homes and join us for a delightful afternoon to uplift and support our mission – serving those in need within our communities! We will host an in-person event on May 10, 2025 at the beautiful Hershey Country Club, beginning at 11:30am. This event will include a delicious lunch, wonderful musical offerings by the multi-talented group **Seasons**, viewing and bidding on exclusive in-person auction items, and the opportunity to meet Honorary Chairperson Valerie Pritchett from ABC27. **Tickets for the in-person event are \$60 per person (\$20 charitable gift).**

We are using **ReadySetAuction** secure software to accept ticket sales and monetary donations and to conduct all bidding on auction items. Please note that your **ReadySetAuction** account will be your gateway to placing bids on the online auction items.

To purchase tickets, make a monetary donation and to create your online account, please visit our special Helping Hands event website or scan the QR Code for direct access:

<https://events.readysetauction.com/unitedchurchchristhomes/helpinghands25>



The online auction catalog preview period is April 21<sup>st</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup> and the active bidding period is from April 28<sup>th</sup> to 6:00pm on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeds will benefit UCC Homes Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund, which helps underwrite residents who are no longer able to pay for the cost of their care and who are not deemed eligible for governmental assistance programs. This need is very real and every donation helps!

You won't want to miss out on the fun of this Helping Hands event! We hope you choose the option that enables you to share your passion for helping others and fits your philanthropic goals.

## Resident Spotlight on Kindred Place at Annville

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development

Napkin folding can enhance the overall design, atmosphere, and visual appeal of any table setting combined with a practical purpose. Even a simple napkin fold elevates table décor. For Mrs. Doris Lineaweaver, resident at Kindred Place at Annville, napkin folding is a way to give to others, adding a touch of elegance and beauty to the tables shared with fellow residents.

Every Tuesday at 8:25 am, Mrs. Lineaweaver volunteers alongside eight other residents at Kindred Place for a napkin folding session. While the folding motion is a great exercise for the hands, it is the opportunity to strengthen friendships and work together for the benefit of the greater community that has kept Mrs. Lineaweaver folding napkins for the past 12 years. She is proud of the napkin designs that add the finishing touch to the already creatively decorated dining room tables.

Mrs. Lineaweaver's desire to volunteer for the benefit of others was ignited after she married her wonderful husband, Harold. He was an active member of the local Lion's Club and so she became part of the Lionesses, the women's auxiliary for the club. The Lineaweavers were also members of St. Mark's UCC in Lebanon, where she served in numerous volunteer positions. In addition to serving as a deacon, elder, choir member and adult division leader, Mrs. Lineaweaver volunteered to organize the Lenten Soup suppers and coordinate the food for their large church picnic held at Pine Acres, a spacious wooded camp area with a pavilion owned by St. Mark's UCC.

When Ruth Shenk and Betsy Grier created Lebanon Christian Ministries, Mrs. Lineaweaver volunteered as a resource counselor, assisting those in need of food, clothing, gas, and other necessities of daily living. After ten years in that volunteer position, she transitioned to the role of Street Fair Chairperson at Good Samaritan Hospital for two years, served as Auxiliary President and put in over 600 hours as a volunteer on the floor. With a deep love for her hometown of Lebanon, Mrs. Lineaweaver expressed that love by leading tours of Lebanon for the historical society. She was also a 60-year member of the Lebanon Women's Club.

Her greatest accomplishment in life is that she was always there for her husband and children. She is extremely proud of her two daughters, Beth Anne and Joan and her four amazing grandchildren, Ryan, Rebecca, Anna, and Isaac. They bring her great joy!

Mr. & Mrs. Lineaweaver moved to Kindred Place at Annville in February 2011. They knew quite a few people from St. Mark's UCC who were residents and spoke highly of the welcoming atmosphere.

"This is family. Everyone knows everyone and the people, staff and residents, are so friendly," she shared.

Mrs. Lineaweaver found kindred spirits with her neighbors who love to play Rummikub and Pinochle. She also joined Faith Baptist Church, where her daughter is a member, and participates in the bi-monthly Bible Study and monthly hymn sing lead by retired pastors of the church.

A gracious host, Mrs. Lineaweaver invited me to share a meal and I experienced firsthand the beauty of her kind stewardship.



*Doris Lineaweaver*

## Resident Spotlight on Ephrata Manor

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development

“Don’t be afraid to try new and different things!” Mr. Nevin Rutt and his wife, Mrs. Gladys Horvath, apartment residents at Ephrata Manor, admit to following these words of wisdom! Within the past eight years, they have expanded their horizons and taken 16 Road Scholar trips, both domestic and international. As they learned from another couple on their first Road Scholar trip to Croatia, who were 89 and 91 at the time, “We’ve got to travel while we are young.”

One of the best “different things” that they’ve done was marrying each other in 2017, both at the age of 77 years young. When they shared the news with friends that they were getting married, no one believed them until they shared that they’ve been friends since the age of three. Mrs. Horvath’s father was a Lutheran pastor and moved his family to Reamstown, PA when he was called to serve at Salem Lutheran Church. It was in that church, during Sunday School class, where Mr. Rutt and Mrs. Horvath’s paths first crossed. They truly did grow up together, attending the same church and school all the way through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Though they never dated each other in school, their friendship strengthened as they participated in many of the same activities and even sang together in a quartet.

After graduating from Cocalico High School, they went their separate ways but continued to stay in touch over the years, through Christmas cards, class reunions, and eventually email. Mr. Rutt married and raised his family in Ephrata and Mrs. Horvath married and raised her family in Louisville, KY. Mr. Rutt has always been a huge baseball fan and knowing that, Mrs. Horvath invited him and his family to visit her and her family in Louisville. It wasn’t until after both their spouses had passed that he finally took her up on the offer to visit. On a weekend visit to Louisville in December 2016, Mrs. Horvath toured him around the city and took him to the Louisville Slugger Museum. Neither one of them was looking to marry again but as they said, “lightning struck!” They married the following April in an intimate ceremony with 25 family members and friends at Bergstrasse Lutheran Church and have been very happy together ever since.

They began their search to downsize several years ago, when the upkeep of their large backyard and pool began to be too much. Mr. Rutt was very familiar with Ephrata Manor, as he had many friends who were residents. Mrs. Horvath knew a couple of people as she volunteered to play piano during the chapel services. Since moving into their apartment at Ephrata Manor, they’ve been welcomed by their neighbors, reconnecting with longtime friends and meeting new ones.

Mr. Rutt and Mrs. Horvath enjoy when their families visit them. A must for every visit is a trip to Shady Maple. Their adult children welcomed their marriage and are relieved that they have each other and are not alone. Mr. Rutt is active in the Lion’s Club and Mrs. Horvath volunteers with the local historical society, with a passion for genealogy. She has spent many years tracing both their family history and lineage. They also volunteer in various ways at their church, including changing the outdoor signs.

Their advice on how they stay young, “Keep active!” Whether on an exciting Danube River cruise, exploring regions of Spain, touring family in Lancaster County, or visiting with friends at Ephrata Manor, their bustling schedule keeps them moving and forever young!



*Nevin Rutt and Gladys Horvath*

## Staff Focus on Thornwald Home

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development

Growing up in Norrisville, MD, just south of the Pennsylvania state line, in a primarily farming community, Marlene Jordan fell in love with animals. Marlene, who assumed the role of Director of Nursing at Thornwald Home in December 2024, did not dream of becoming a registered nurse. Catching barn cats, caring for a pet racoon, housing parakeets, and visiting different zoos strengthened her strong desire to become a veterinarian.

As a college student majoring in biology at the University of Maryland, with dreams of healing animals with injuries and illnesses, Marlene was challenged by a friend to apply for the Licensed Practical Nursing program at Baltimore City Hospital. Thinking she could work as an LPN while finishing her biology degree, Marlene applied for the program and was one of the 22 students selected out of 200 applicants. Recognizing her solid clinical skills and good rapport with residents and their families, she put her dreams of becoming a veterinarian on the back burner and worked for the next 17 years as an LPN and LPN Unit Manager. With encouragement from her supervisors and coworkers, Marlene decided to become a Registered Nurse. She felt most accomplished when she graduated from Excelsior University with her nursing degree. Marlene worked in and around the Baltimore area for many years but mainly in the for-profit field.

One of the most surprising things Marlene observed when she started at Thornwald Home is the quality of care provided, with the focus on caring for the individual and their specific needs and preferences. Marlene respects her co-workers and loves interacting with residents and their families. Beneficial lessons learned over her years in nursing include how to accept guidance, teach without preaching, and use her powers of observation to assess each situation.

Marlene is extremely proud of her son, Dustin, whom she raised as a single mom. He and his wife work in youth ministry and are wonderful parents to her treasured 8-month-old grandson, Jeremiah. Cooking and baking helps Marlene decompress. She loves to share her culinary creations with family, friends, and meal trains for those in need. Biscuits from scratch is one of her specialties, a southern cooking influence from her mother and grandmother. Marlene practices canning, using many of her tomatoes in favorite Italian recipes. She said when she eventually retires, "I want to feed people. There are so many people in need of food assistance, I just want to be able to continue to help others."

She welcomes alone time to unwind and Netflix is her "go to" for TV dramas. Her favorite show is *The West Wing*. She is content watching old episodes of *MASH* or westerns. She currently is viewing *Lost*, following a friend's recommendation. Like many nurses who are strong multi-taskers, she may be working on a jigsaw puzzle while watching TV and checking her computer.

Self-described as happy, Marlene exudes joy in both her work and personal life. She may identify as a jokester but there is no joking about the positive impact she has on those she serves and those who are serving beside her at Thornwald Home.



*Marlene Jordan*



# United Church of Christ Homes

30 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



## UCC Homes

30 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 303-1502  
(717) 303-1607 FAX  
[www.ucc-homes.org](http://www.ucc-homes.org)

### Community Locations

The Lebanon Valley Home  
550 East Main Street  
Annville, PA 17003  
(717) 867-4467

Thornwald Home  
442 Walnut Bottom Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 249-4118

Ephrata Manor  
99 Bethany Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 738-4940

Kindred Place at Annville  
One Kindred Place  
Annville, PA 17003  
(717) 867-5572

Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home  
1000 West South Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
(717) 245-2187

Kindred Place at Harrisburg  
4700 Oakhurst Blvd.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 657-7900

## Yes, I want to support UCC Homes' Mission!

Here is my check made payable to UCC Homes for:

\$250    \$100    \$50    \$25    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate my contribution for the following fund:

Benevolent    Endowment    Benevolent Endowment Trust

TRIBUTE    Memorial (or)    In Honor Of

(Person's Name) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please send your check to:   UCC Homes, Attn: Development Office  
30 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011**

**To donate now to UCC Homes, please visit our website at  
[www.ucc-homes.org](http://www.ucc-homes.org) and click on the "Click Here to Make a Donation!"  
button on the home page.**

***Thank you for your support!***

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